Utilization of amount granted for Power Projects

†883. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry have failed to utilize the amount in full granted for power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for speedy execution of power projects in current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The utilization of budgetary allocation of Ministry of Power is expected to be Rs. 14,681 crores out of Rs. 15,630 crores which comprises of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) as well as and Internal & Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR). This is nearly 94% of the budgeted allocation for the Ministry of Power. The reason for reduced utilization is non-approval of projects/schemes of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) and Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(d) Ministry of Power has taken suitable measures to ensure the speedy execution of the Power Projects during current financial year i.e. 2004-05. This includes intensive monitoring of all projects, inter-ministerial coordination, periodic visits to projects sites etc.

Rural Electricity infrastructure and household electrification scheme

884. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to replace the existing "Accelerated Electrification of One Lakh Villages and one crore Households" scheme with the new "Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification" Scheme;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the 'Accelerated Electrification of One Lakh Villages and one crore Households' scheme has failed to achieve its objective;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons for replacing it with the new scheme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Anew scheme has been formulated for the attainment of the objective of the National Common Minimum Programme of completing household electrification in five years. Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone of 33/11 KV or 66/11 KV Substations.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure.

(iii) Decentralized Distribution and supply system.

100% grant would be given for electrification of all Below Poverty Line (BPL) unelectrified households.

(c) to (e) Under this new scheme there is provision of Capital Subsidy of 90% against the provision of 40% Capital Subsidy in the earlier scheme. The enhancement in Capital Subsidy to 90% has been considered necessary for this attainment of the NCMP objective.

Power crisis in the Country

885. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister Of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire country is under power crisis and the industrial production has been affected adversely;

(b) if so, the names of States that are facing power crisis at present and the steps taken by the Government to remove the shortage of power in these States; and

(c) the details of the power projects awaiting clearance as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) In view of various initiatives taken by the Government, energy shortage in the country has declined from 8.8% in 2002-03 to 7.1% in 2003-04 and 6.8% in 2004-05 till December, 2004. State wise energy shortage during the period April-December, 2004 in the country is given in the Statement (See below). Further, electricity generation showed a growth of 6.5% during the period April-December, 2004.